

Israel changes Sinai settlement from military to civilian hands

TEL AVIV, Jan. 18 (AFP). — An Israeli settlement in the Sinai's Rafiah salient passed from military to civilian hands yesterday, when it became a kibbutz with about 150 inhabitants. The Holith settlement was founded several years ago by the Nahal corps of soldier-farmer pioneers, many of whom remained after demobilisation. About 2,000 people came to celebrate the transfer, which coincided with the first anniversary of the neighbouring village of Tsofim, to show their support for Israeli residents in the area.

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Fighting flares in south Lebanon

BEIRUT, Jan. 18 (R). — Three Palestinian commandos were killed and others injured in renewed heavy exchanges with Lebanese rightists in south Lebanon today, the right-wing Falangist radio reported. The deaths brought to ten the number reported killed in four days of intermittent shelling between the two sides. The shelling followed a series of bomb explosions in Beirut in pro-Libyan or pro-Palestinian newspaper offices, a school and near the Libyan ambassador's residence last Saturday.

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

Mitsui agreement boosts Aqaba fertiliser project

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Jan. 18 — The Aqaba chemical fertiliser plant — one of Jordan's two biggest industrial projects and a pillar of the national economic strategy of increasing self-reliance by exploiting domestic mineral resources during the current five-year plan — received a major boost this week with the agreement for the Japanese Mitsui company to provide technical assistance for the scheme.

Mitsui Toatsu Chemicals, Inc. replaces Agrico company, of Tulsa, Oklahoma (USA), which withdrew amicably from the project last summer after a management change in the USA. Unlike Agrico, however, which held a 25.1 per cent share of the equity capital of the fertiliser company, Mitsui does not have a share of the capital, but is contracted to act as technical supervisor during the construction phase of the plant and for three years after production starts.

Production by mid 1980

The General Manager of the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Co. Ltd., Dr. Mahmud Mardi, told the Jordan Times in an interview here today that the construction phase is expected to take some 30 months, with production expected to start in mid-1980.

Mitsui, which is a phosphatic fertiliser manufacturer itself, will provide 17 technical people during the construction phase, and 27 during the first three years of production. It will also train Jordanian technicians throughout the period of the contract, both in Mitsui plants and in other fertiliser installations throughout the world, Dr. Mardi said.

Financing by March

Dr. Mardi also said that the financing package for the project will be finalised in March, after a Jordanian team headed by National Planning Council President Dr. Hanna Odeh makes a tour in February of several Gulf states whose lending institutions are interested in providing loans to, or taking equity participations in, the project.

The total cost of the project is put at \$325 million. After the Gulf financing bodies decide on their lending or equity interests, the fertiliser company will still need to borrow between \$200 million and \$300 million on the international capital markets, Dr. Mardi said.

Part of the financing package involves raising the company's capital from \$60 million to \$100 million. The equity shareholdings now are distributed as follows: 51.1 per cent for the Jordan government (which includes the 25.1 per cent shareholding bought back from Agrico), 25 per cent for the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, five per cent for the International Finance Corporation (a World Bank affiliate), and five per cent for the Arab Mining Company (a multinational, Arab League-sponsored company).

Between five and ten per cent of the shares are being reserved for purchase by the Jordanian public, and the government may reduce its 51.1 per cent shareholding to allow some of the Gulf financing institutions to take a stake in the project. The Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development is one institution that has expressed interest in the Aqaba fertiliser project from the start.

(Continued on p. 2)

Supply Ministry battles on many fronts to keep pace with inflation

In a two part series we report the campaign launched by the Ministry of Supply to keep the cost of living in Jordan down. In this first article we look at the overall plans of the Ministry.

By Ian Kellie
Special to the Jordan Times

Nearly JD 13 million has been allocated by the Ministry of Supply to an ambitious complex of projects aimed at fighting Jordan's inflation rate. It all goes back to 1974. At that time Abdulla Hamadah, the ministry's projects officer explained in a recent interview with the Jordan Times, "the world was faced with a tremendous problem in terms of shortage of certain commodities which led to price increases."

Jordan was particularly vulnerable to this economic crisis, being an importer both of oil and of a large number of processed consumer goods. With a large balance of trade deficit there was little that could be done to offset the rising rate of import prices.

So on March 20, 1974, the Ministry of Supply was founded to ensure the local availability of essential com-

modities.

Government subsidies were placed on certain commodities — notably on flour (big enough to pose Jordan something of a smuggling problem), but also on sugar. Last year the government spent close to JD ten million to stop sugar prices rising above 155 fils per kilo. Without this, prices would have leapt up to 350 fils.

But the pace has been forced since November 1976, when Marwan Kassim took over as Minister of Supply. Since then no less than six major projects

King urges Arab nations support Somalia in this grave situation



AMMAN, Jan. 18 (JNA). — At the end of a second round of talks here with Somali President, Mohammad Said Barre, His Majesty King Hussein said in a statement that the situation in the Horn of Africa is grave and critical and cannot be ignored or allowed to deteriorate by the world. "All Arab states are duty bound to back brotherly Somalia, an Arab country, facing direct threats that may extend and expand and bring the whole area face to face with danger," the King was quoted by the Jordan News Agency as saying.

Earlier King Hussein and President Barre attended a luncheon in the Somali leader's honour, hosted by Premier Mudar Badran. The two leaders also visited the Martyrs' Monument.

King meets N. Yemen envoy

AMMAN, Jan. 18 (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening the North Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdallah Al Asmal who delivered to him a message from President of the Yemeni Command Council Lt.-Col. Ahmad Hussein Al Ghashmi.

The message concerns the endeavours now being made to unify Arab ranks and bilateral relations. The minister arrived here today from Saudi Arabia on a two-day visit.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Mr. Asmal said that the Republic of North Yemen appreciates King Hussein's efforts to unify Arab ranks.

He spoke of a "critical stage" in Middle East affairs and warned that Israel wanted to annex occupied Arab territories and deny the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Mr. Asmal is due to go on to Damascus and Cairo carrying messages to Presidents Hafez Assad and Anwar Sadat.

France will refuse Somalia arms because of war in Ethiopia

PARIS, Jan. 18 (R). — France will turn down any Somali request for arms supplies as long as it considered Somalia to be the aggressor in the Ogaden conflict with Ethiopia, informed sources said today.

They were commenting on reports that Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre had renewed appeals for western arms to meet an imminent Soviet-backed attack from Ethiopia.

French policy was that foreign powers should not intervene in the Horn of Africa, and the Soviet military presence in Ethiopia was therefore to be deplored.

The sources said France considered that Somalia was in fact challenging established frontiers, and was the aggressor in the Ogaden conflict.

In Ethiopia a member of the ruling military council today flatly denied that there were any Cuban or Soviet military advisers in Ethiopia or that Soviet warships had helped in the defence of the Eritrean port of Massawa.

Major Berhanu Bayih, a member of the foreign affairs committee of the council or "Derje", was referring to U.S. estimates of up to 2,000 Cuban and 1,000 Soviet military advisers in Ethiopia.

It was not immediately known whether a meeting of the parallel military committee, due in Cairo tomorrow between Egyptian War Minister Muhammad Gamassi and Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman would go ahead as planned.

The agency quoted Mr. Sawi as saying that President Sadat decided to recall Mr. Kamel because statements by Mr. Dayan and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin indicated Israel was offering "partial solutions which cannot lead to a Middle East permanent and just peace."

Owen meets Ethiopian official

LONDON, Jan. 18 (AFP). — British Foreign Secretary David Owen was meeting here today with a high-ranking Ethiopian foreign minister official, Major Ito Dawit Ghiorgis, two days after the Somalia request for western aid to thwart an alleged "imminent invasion" of its territory by Ethiopia.

A foreign office spokesman said that Maj. Ghiorgis had been scheduled some time ago.

Egyptian team ordered home from Jerusalem as Israeli attitude to talks angers Sadat

CAIRO, Jan. 18 (R). — President Sadat tonight recalled his foreign minister Ibrahim Kamel from critical talks in Jerusalem and the whole future of his Mideast peace initiative looked in peril. Official sources said Mr. Sadat had also cancelled parallel talks due to have begun in Cairo tomorrow between the defence ministers of Egypt and Israel.

Information Minister Abdel Monem Sawi announced on Cairo radio that President Sadat had called for a special session of parliament on Saturday to outline the reasons for his decision, the agency said.

MENA said Egypt was upset by Israeli behaviour at the first meeting of the political committee set up between the two countries as part of efforts to reach peace in the region.

President Sadat's move followed blunt public exchanges between Israeli and Egyptian delegates.

Mr. Kamel, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance met briefly earlier today in an effort to try and improve the atmosphere.

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The agency quoted Mr. Sawi as saying that President Sadat decided to recall Mr. Kamel because statements by Mr. Dayan and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin indicated Israel was offering "partial solutions which cannot lead to a Middle East permanent and just peace."

Programmes interrupted

Cairo radio and television interrupted their programmes to broadcast Mr. Sawi's announcement.

MENA quoted Mr. Sawi as saying that President Sadat had taken "this decisive decision so that the (Jerusalem) negotiations do not continue revolving in a vicious circle or move to side issues."

The minister said Egypt's stand was "clear and frank since (Mr. Sadat's) peace initiative began and this stand has never changed. There was a hope that the other side (Israel) would reciprocate to this clarity with similar clarity."

Mr. Sawi said Egypt had made it clear from the start of President Sadat's peace initiative that he wanted a full Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab soil and self-determination for the Palestinians.

In dinner speech last night, Mr. Begin appeared to reject these positions.

The Egyptian spokesman added: "The world conscience has agreed to these (Egyptian) principles ... therefore it is unacceptable to resort to bargaining, outbidding and wasting time."

He added: "Egypt wants pe-

Shock decision stuns Israeli and American delegations to talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan. 18 (R). — Egyptian delegates to the Middle East peace talks packed their bags and headed for home tonight, saying that President Anwar Sadat was angered at statements made by Israeli leaders.

News of the recall of the Egyptian delegation first received from Cairo Radio, stunned American and Israeli delegates to the talks which opened here yesterday.

U.S. delegation spokesman Hodding Carter told newsmen he was unable to give any explanation for the recall.

Mr. Carter understood the Egyptians would be leaving within a few hours.

Israeli officials said they had heard nothing about the move at the Hilton Hotel, venue of the conference.

The head of the Israeli government press office, Zev Heffets, commenting on the Cairo decision, told reporters: "I certainly hope it is not the end of the talks but I am sure it is not the end of the negotiating process. Let us hope it is just a pause."

Mr. Vance had been due to leave for Cairo on Friday. Mr. Carter said he did not know whether these plans would now be changed.

Reporters in the hotel where the talks were being held saw Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan hurriedly leaving the hotel. Neither would answer reporters' questions.

Zablocki delegation urges Israeli withdrawal

TEL AVIV, Jan. 18 (R). — A U.S. congressional delegation said here today Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories was essential for achieving peace in the Middle East.

The 15-member delegation of the House of Representatives international relations committee left Israel today after a three-day visit during which they met Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

Delegation head, Mr. Clement Zablocki, told reporters at Ben Gurion airport here: "We believe that in order to achieve peace there is a need to return (occupied Arab) territories."

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A beast that can be brought to its senses

For every day that the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations drag on, it should become more clear that the Israelis are slowly being driven into a corner from where they will either pounce madly, or come out bravely and willing to accept the reasonable peace dictates of the entire world. The tough speech and demeanour of Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamel at the opening session of the talks in Jerusalem this week startled the Israelis, but what was missed in the commotion was the fact that the Egyptian peace dictates were repeated almost to the letter -- and certainly in spirit -- by the American Secretary of State, our good friend Mr. Vance.

The pressures that are thus being built up by the current negotiations will only continue to be built up, and will be felt primarily by the Israelis. We have reached the point of face-to-face negotiations, and those negotiations have quickly focussed on the need for a full Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territory and a recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination. On both points, the Israelis refuse to accept the minimum demands position of the Arabs, and refuse to accept the consensus of over 130 countries of the world, including the United States and Western Europe.

In such circumstances, pressures will naturally build up upon the party that is an obstacle to peace -- in this case, clearly the Israelis. History shows that when they feel pressured, the Israelis either start shooting, or retreat into even more extreme positions of selfishness and, to them, historically and biblically justified imperialism. The interesting situation today, in Jerusalem, has the American secretary of state sitting in on those discussions during which the Israelis will show their true colours, and this will make it that much more difficult for the Israelis to carry on with their intransigence. They are being cornered, which is an opportunity for the world to bring them to their senses.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RAI, on Wednesday, said the Joint Egyptian-Israeli Political Committee continues negotiations while observers say viewpoints are still incompatible over the subjects in the agenda of the talks. His Majesty King Hussein told French Television, on Monday night, that the Middle East is now at the crossroads until basic principles of peace are clarified. The coming few days should show Israel's true position since the Arabs have put forward the basic conditions for peace as they see it while Israel has continuously rejected them. Since the Israeli proposals of Premier Menachem Begin cannot be a basis for peace, the near future will result in one of two situations: either Israel will accept the Arab conditions for a just peace or it will refuse them and open the door wide for the worst of possibilities.

AL DUSTOUR said Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said, on Tuesday, that "concessions and compromises" are demanded from both sides for peace -- and he added Israel's pre-conditions which rejected three things. He said Israel says no to Palestinian self-determination in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; no to a Palestinian state and no to full Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories. One wonders how there could be concessions or compromises after these negative conditions? The Arabs have already conceded and compromised more than they fairly can be asked to do, until now, they are still waiting for the least Israeli reciprocity. The Arabs have accepted the principles of negotiations and a peace settlement and they have offered guarantees of security to Israel to exist in the area in return for full Israeli withdrawal from Arab lands occupied in 1967 -- which international law does not allow Israel to control -- and to return for Palestinian self-determination -- which is also guaranteed by international law. Israel, however, has yet to reciprocate and one wonders what does Mr. Dayan mean by "concessions and compromises"?

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New government department has plans for national information retrieval network and central archives complex in Amman

In a two part series starting today the Jordan Times looks at the people and institutions who work behind the scenes to keep the government's records and files in order and compile the figures for the planners to work from. In this first part we report on the recently established Department of National Libraries, Documentation and Archives. Tomorrow's article will report on the Department of Statistics.

By John Rigg
Photos by Marianne Pearson

Special to the Jordan Times

As an independent directorate under the Ministry of Culture and youth, The Department of National Libraries, Documentation and Archives is working to establish and develop a national information network that will eventually benefit not only your local bureaucrat, but decision makers and scholars from all walks of life.

Established in April, 1977, the directorate, under the Director-General Dr. Ahmad H. Sharqas, is concerned with all aspects relating to the field of historical and contemporary information in Jordan. Dr. Sharqas, former professor at Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania, received his doctorate in Near East Languages and Civilisation with a concentration on Documental and Intellectual History. He spoke of the goals he has set for the directorate, to the Jordan Times.

Special libraries

The planned information network will include special public libraries which will be situated throughout the country, as well as information centres in all government agencies. They will work in conjunction with what will eventually become a National Information Complex in Amman. Material to be included will be the Royal Archives; research papers; historical documents; folklore documents; Arab manuscripts in private libraries; treaties and agreements; maps and other documents of cultural, educational, social or political value.

This network will focus on a National Information Complex, with headquarters comprising the National Library along with an Archives Centre, computer and microfilm rooms



Hamoud Al Humiti interviews the chief clerk at the Amman Land Authority. He is a graduate of the Jordan Institute of Social Work and has been with the Directorate since it was established a year ago.

and the offices of the Directorate.

The computer, in effect, will be a data bank. That is, it will act as a depository for all the information coming from the various sources. Publications from these sources will give the initial information, but eventually computer hook-ups will be inaugurated with, for example, the Department of Statistics. This information retrieval system linked to all the data sources, will be capable of providing almost instant services nationally and then internationally within the Arab community.

Before all this takes place though, the staff of the various ministries and agencies will be educated with regards to the identification and importance of archival documents, and ultimately the care which must be taken in handling them. With the very limited space available, many ministries are literally overflowing with documents that need to be categorised and filed.

The Income Tax Department is a prime example of too much material to cope with and too little office space to accommodate it. They often have to stack their files in the corridors.

This will be remedied when the relevant personnel are trained in what material is to be retained and what is to be disregarded. Much valuable space is occupied by redundant material, and consequently the more important documents suffer damage by being stacked in cloak rooms, rest areas and the aforementioned hallways.

Dr. Sharqas says, "It is a difficult job, but it's interesting and very badly needed. I treat it like a thesis that needs a lot of work."

This backlog of work has left very little time for any solid achievements, but in June, 1977, the Directorate did manage in sponsoring a book exhibition in honour of the Silver Jubilee of King Hussein, in the Palace of Culture.

It was the first of its kind in Jordan and displayed the works of Jordanian writers and also foreign writers whose subject was a Jordanian theme. A Bibliography of these works has been published by the Directorate, as a first step in organising a comprehensive national bibliography of Jordan.

ews is the next step. Dr. Hanan Qaqish, a Doctor of Public Administration who specialised in filing studies is part of this team.

He remarked that, "each of the 16 questions is a major task of analysis in itself."

Reports have to be written on each question in each of the 88 questionnaires. When the whole report is finished, it will go to a conference table where the problems and recommendations will be worked out before it reaches the relevant authorities where the major decisions will be made.

At present, there are only three researchers in the Direc-



The Director-General Ahmad Sharqas has a PhD from Harvard University and a Masters degree in library and information science from the State University of New York at Albany.

16 point questionnaire

Lina Mola, a researcher with the Directorate, is, at the moment working on a project to compile and assess all documentary and archival material within the government ministries.

Its basis is a 16 point questionnaire, which has now been completed and returned. Miss Mola mentions, that she, with a team of two more researchers, visited 88 ministries and interviews took place in each case. The questionnaire tried to clarify what kind of material each ministry had on file, as well as storage facilities, availability, preservation, and the qualifications of the person in charge of the filing systems in each.

As Dr. Sharqas says, "Computers are no more unusual than automobiles. You don't have to be an engineer to drive a car. Computers are useful and we must learn how to use them."

Analysing the results of these questionnaires and intervi-



Researcher Lena Mola leaves the office to gather information about government record keeping. Another graduate of the Jordan Institute of Social Work she received on-the-job training at the Directorate.

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U.S. energy secretary asks Saudi help in building oil reserves

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia, Jan. 18 (R). — The possibility of Saudi Arabia helping the United States store up a one billion barrel strategic oil reserve was discussed during a visit here by U.S. Energy Secretary James Schlesinger, it was reported yesterday. The daily newspaper Al Youm quoted Mr. Schlesinger in an interview as saying it was up to the Saudi leaders to decide whether they would like to assist the American effort.

Mr. Schlesinger deeded reports here that differences had emerged during the five day visit.

The energy secretary said the talks were of an exploratory nature and were not aimed at reaching common policies.

President Carter has announced plans to build up the reserve by 1985.

Mr. Schlesinger's visit included talks with Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and Oil Minister Ahmad Zaid Yamani.

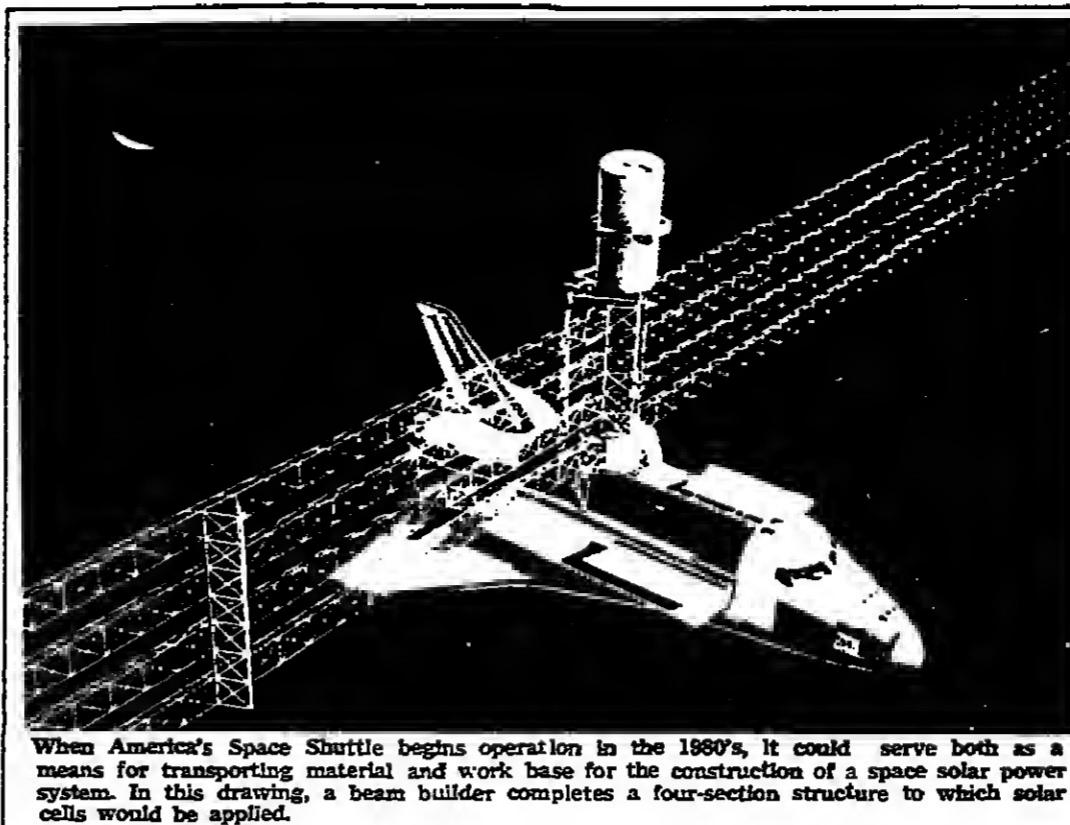
The secretary told the newspaper that maintaining peace in the Gulf takes a special and continuous place in American foreign policy.

He said the United States

must remain the major power facing the Soviet Union. "There are only two great powers maintaining the world balance. The United States must play a decisive role in maintaining this balance," he added.

"Maintaining Middle East peace means maintaining the independence of the governments of the area, including the Gulf."

"When America's Space Shuttle begins operation in the 1980s, it could serve both as a means for transporting material and work base for the construction of a space solar power system. In this drawing, a team builder completes a four-section structure to which solar cells would be applied."



When America's Space Shuttle begins operation in the 1980s, it could serve both as a means for transporting material and work base for the construction of a space solar power system. In this drawing, a team builder completes a four-section structure to which solar cells would be applied.

EEC agrees to better terms for Cypriot farm exports

BRUSSELS, Jan. 18 (R). — Foreign ministers of the Common Market countries yesterday agreed to offer Cyprus more favourable terms for its agricultural exports to the EEC, community officials said.

But France and Italy, concerned to protect their own negotiating positions on Mediterranean farm produce, wanted concessions to the island to be limited in time and to diminish gradually.

The ministers were reacting to a suggestion from the EEC's Executive Commission that better terms be offered to Cy-

prus than at last month's talks here, which were broken off by Nicosia.

EEC officials said West Germany, Denmark and Holland lined up behind Britain's long-standing insistence that special terms be made to Cyprus, especially because it was important to Europe not to upset its economy at a delicate moment in the search for a political settlement on the divided island.

Cyprus Finance Minister Andreas Patsalides conferred later with Mr. Frank Judd, Secretary of State at the British Foreign Office.

British officials said Mr. Judd urged him to resume the negotiations with the EEC, following up the more favourable atmosphere for Cyprus at yesterday's ministerial meeting.

Cyprus is especially concerned to preserve tariff concessions on potatoes, table grapes, Cyprus sherry and grape must, they added.

Until the end of last year Cyprus benefited from Commonwealth preferential trade with Britain, by far its largest EEC customer, but with the end of Britain's five-year transition to full commun-

ity membership new trade terms had to be negotiated.

Cyprus rejected the conditions offered last month as totally unacceptable, and President Spyros Kyprianou wrote to EEC leaders in emphatic language to seek a better deal.

British Foreign Secretary Dr. David Owen said no new mandate had formerly been given to the EEC Commission, but the situation was "unlocked" and it would now have greater flexibility in talks with Cyprus.

It was also up to Cyprus to come back to the negotiating table, he told reporters.

Dr. Owen said that while the issue was a marginal one for the community it was crucial for Cyprus, 87 per cent of whose exports to the EEC are of farm produce.

Dr. Owen said it was hoped negotiations could be resumed soon in time for the commission to come back to the ministers next month with an agreement already worked out to seek their approval.

It was important to move fast because the planting season would shortly begin in Cyprus, which exports potatoes, grapes, wines, citrus fruit and carrots to the EEC.

Nigerian, Kuwaiti oil ministers meet

KUWAIT, Jan. 18 (R). — Nigerian Oil Minister Muhammad Buhari held talks yesterday with Kuwaiti Oil Minister Abdulla Muttaleb Al Kazimi during a brief four-hour visit to Kuwait.

U.S. congressman calls for lifting of Cuban blockade

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18 (AFP) — The Chairman of the Banking Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, Henry Reuss, yesterday urged lifting of the American economic blockade of Cuba.

The influential Wisconsin Democrat pointed out that the Cuban regime had survived the blockade, which was aimed at toppling it. He said it was "irrational" to maintain the bar on trade with Cuba.

The world would be a better place if the United States did not push Cuba into the arms of the Soviet Union.

Rep. Reuss, who recently visited Cuba with nine other members of Congress, acknowledged that no change in the Carter administration's Cuban policy could be expected before Senate ratification of new U.S.-Panamanian treaties governing the Panama Canal.

In addition, President Jimmy Carter remains opposed to normalization of relations with Cuba while that country maintains armed forces in Africa.

However, Rep. Reuss said the Cuban military presence in African countries was no bar to a U.S.-Cuban rapprochement. He added that partial lifting could bring Cuban concessions.

Action called for against countries erecting barriers to British exports

LONDON, Jan. 18 (R). — An all-party parliamentary committee called on the government to take strong action against developing countries which have erected barriers against British exports.

The committee suggested that aid to some countries might be stopped and quotas altered to restrict their exports to Britain.

In a report on trade and aid published today the committee

set out tables showing trading barriers erected by some developing countries. They included Brazil, which imposes a 205 per cent import duty on cotton cloth as against a European community duty of 13·15 per cent.

Other countries mentioned included Argentina, with 208 per cent and Egypt with 120-145 per cent import duty on cotton.

The report "recommends the strongest possible action against those middle income countries which pursue such illiberal policies."

Iraq, Spain sign economic protocol

BAGHDAD, Jan. 18 (R). — Spanish Commerce Minister Juan Antonio Garcia Diez left Baghdad today after signing an economic cooperation protocol, the Iraq News Agency reported.

During this three-day visit, Senor Garcia had talks with Iraqi officials on closer bilateral cooperation in the field of commerce, communications and tourism.

U.S. prepares "cold, blunt" letter to India on nuclear safeguards

TEL AVIV, Jan. 18 (R). — The United States is drafting the notorious "cold and very blunt" letter to India on nuclear safeguards which President Carter mentioned in an unguarded moment during his visit to New Delhi.

A senior official travelling with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to Israel said yesterday the president would send a strong letter to India on nuclear safeguards. It was now being drafted.

An earlier letter which India's Prime Minister Morarji Desai received from Mr. Carter was only a thank-you note, the official said.

President Carter's remark to Mr. Vance on Jan. 2, overheard by the world's press through a television microphone, caused acute embarrassment to the president on his first major overseas tour.

He had just completed talks with Prime Minister Desai on India's reluctance to accept full international safeguards for nuclear power.

The president said: "He's pretty adamant about the nuclear fuel thing. When we get back I think we ought to write him another letter, just cold and very blunt."

Mobil develops new process for converting coal into petrol

NEW YORK, Jan. 18 (R). — America's huge coal reserves could be used to power motorcars within the decade using a new process developed by Mobil Oil Corporation scientists, the company says.

The company recently demonstrated a small pilot plant for converting coal into high-octane petrol.

The breakthrough involves converting methanol derived from coal by well-tested processes, according to Dr. John Wise, Vice President of the Mobil Research and Development Corporation.

It is the final step -- from methanol into quality petrol -- that has not been feasible before, Dr. Wise says.

The Germans developed a si-

similar system in the Second World War, but later abandoned it because it was expensive and produced low-octane petrol.

The German system is now used only by South Africa, which is coal-rich and oil-poor, Mobil says.

The company estimates its new process can produce petrol at a cost of 40 to 50 cents per gallon than petroil.

Petrol made from coal cannot compete today with petrol derived from crude oil, the company says. But Dr. Wise observed that "the day will come when the worldwide supply of crude oil cannot meet the potential demand. That's when the U.S. will turn to its abundant reserves of coal for

Japan threatens to reduce offer of import tariff cuts

TOKYO, Jan. 18 (R). — Japan today threatened to reduce its offer of import tariff cuts averaging 42 per cent on 2,630 manufactured goods if the European Economic Community (EEC) insisted on smaller overall reductions in multilateral trade talks.

The International Trade and Industry Ministry, only hours after announcing Japan's offer, said the cuts would be reduced to less than 40 per cent if the EEC went ahead with a proposal to seek lesser cuts.

The ministry was commenting on the outcome of a meeting of EEC ministers yesterday, which gave its negotiators at General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks in Geneva next Friday the go-ahead to follow a U.S. proposal for 40 per cent cuts.

But the EEC ministers also made clear the nine-nation community would probably seek even smaller cuts in deference to French insistence that 40 per cent was too high.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Jordanian fils

Buying/Selling

U.S. dollar	314.00/315.00
U.K. sterling	607.00/611.00
W. German mark	149.20/148.10
Swiss franc	158.20/159.10
French franc	66.60/67.00
Italian lire (for every 100)	36.00/36.20
Japanese yen (for every 100)	130.10/131.80
Dutch guilder	138.70/139.50
Belgian franc (for every ten)	95.50/96.40
Swedish crown	67.30/67.70

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

China seen to push for Cambodian-Viet border negotiations

PEKING, Jan. 18 (R). — A senior Chinese government figure arrived unexpectedly in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh today, prompting speculation among diplomats here of possible moves to get Cambodia and Vietnam to negotiate their border dispute. The surprise visit follows an uncompromising speech by Cambodian Prime Minister Pol Pot, broadcast over Radio Phnom Penh yesterday, in which he made no reference to peace talks but repeated Cambodia's claim that it vanquished the Vietnamese on Jan. 6.

Mme. Teog Ying-chao, widow of Chinese Premier Chou En-lai and a Vice Chairman of China's National People's Congress (parliament) arrived in Peking today by special plane accompanied by Foreign Affairs Vice Minister Han Nao-lung and Mr. Shen Ping, Director of the ministry's Asian Affairs Department.

Diplomatic sources here said Vietnamese Vice Foreign Minister Phan Nien was in Peking. He is said to be a specialist in border problems.

The sources suggested that the Vietnamese vice minister, who is understood to have arrived in Peking on Jan. 8, had come to China in an effort to establish contact with the Cambodians. But a Cambodian Embassy spokesman said there had been no talks with the Vietnamese in the Chinese capital.

Meanwhile, in his major address yesterday, Cambodian Premier Pot made no reference to peace talks.

"If Vietnam stops its intention to attack, subvert ... and take Cambodia as its satellite in an Indochina federation, stops its policy of a big country attacking a small country ... we will have no problem in maintaining friendly relations," Mr. Pot said.

The premier, who was addressing a meeting in Phnom Penh to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Cambodia's revolutionary army, forcefully repeated Cambodia's claim that its troops had defeated the Vietnamese, killing or wounding more than 26,000 of them.

Western sources in Bangkok are sceptical about the Cambodian claim, which was first made as Vietnamese troops were consolidating positions inside strategic border areas, including the "Parrot's Beak" salient, midway between Phnom Penh and Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon).

Brezhnev reportedly suffers from cancer

BONN, Jan. 18 (AFP). — Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev has cancer of the hip bone and his state of health may force a postponement of his long-planned visit to West Germany, the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung said today. The newspaper said the 72-year-old head of state was also suffering from stomach complications which had developed recently. The paper said President Brezhnev was now being temporarily replaced as head of state by Premier Alexei Kosygin and as party secretary general by the Central Committee Secretary Mr. Kirilenko. The report said it was unlikely Mr. Brezhnev would be able to visit West Germany before next September.

Italian president begins formal consultations to choose premier

ROME, Jan. 18 (AFP). — Italian President Giovanni Leone was consulting the heads of the Communist and Christian Democratic parties today prior to designating a new premier. Christian Democratic members of parliament yesterday unanimously nominated outgoing Premier Giulio Andreotti to succeed himself.

President Leone, also a Christian Democrat, would probably designate Mr. Andreotti by tomorrow night or early on Friday, observers said, after going through the formality of consulting heads of all parties.

But that would only be the relatively easy first step towards solving a political crisis.

Ruling French coalition on schism's way?

PARIS, Jan. 18 (AFP). — France's four-party government coalition yesterday saw its popularity rating among voters dip to a record low as internal dissension reached a critical level.

The Paris daily *Le Figaro* published a survey which indicated that 44 per cent of French voters backed the government parties, against 51 per cent who supported parties on the left.

The poll, published less than two months before the March 12 first-round voting in national legislative elections, was taken before relations among the four government parties deteriorated dramatically over the balance of their electoral forces.

The inter-party strife culminated on Monday in an urgent appeal for unity by President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, who warned that continued infighting could prove "suicidal" in the battle against the French left.

But just hours after the president's appeal, Paris Mayor and former Premier Jacques Chirac, who heads the Gaullist Rally for the Republic, issued at his party's coalition partners, accusing the Giscardian Republican Party, the Centrists and the pro-government Radicals of seeking an anti-Gaullist coalition.

M. Chirac went even further and accused certain coalition party leaders -- with a clear reference to M. Giscard d'Estaing himself -- of extending a hand to Socialist leader Francois Mitterrand in a "vain attempt" to build a new coalition which would include some members of the Socialist Party.

He denounced such an attempt and demanded that the coalition parties clarify their position vis-a-vis the Socialists. "You must answer yes or no. We (Gaullists) say no, never," M. Chirac said.

The Socialist publication *Letter of Unity*, meanwhile, said the idea of a Giscard-Socialist rapprochement was an "absurd dream".

Following the newspaper's poll and M. Chirac's remarks, certain coalition leaders, including Centrist Jean Leclercq, called for an urgent meeting of political leaders with Premier Raymond Barre in an effort to smooth over differences and to settle on campaign coordination.

Le Figaro recalled the results of a similar poll last month, although conducted under different conditions, in which the government parties were backed by 47 per cent of voters, against 50 per cent for the left.

The left's one per cent gain in the latest poll was attributed to increased backing for the Socialists, while the three-point drop on the government's side was taken away from the Republicans (two points) and the Gaullists (one point).



The new addition to the British Royal family, Master Peter Mark Andrew Phillips, held by his mother Princess Anne, after his christening at Buckingham Palace, London last month. Also seated is Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, only surviving grandchild of Queen Victoria and the baby's great-great-aunt. Standing (left to right) are Mr. and Mrs. Peter Phillips, parents of Capt. Mark Phillips; Queen Elizabeth II, the baby's grandmother; Capt. Mark Phillips; Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother and Prince Philip. (BIS photo)

Soares' Socialists approve coalition with conservatives

LISBON, Jan. 18 (R). — Portugal's Socialist Party today gave the green light to caretaker Prime Minister Mario Soares to form a new government that would include conservative ministers.

Dr. Soares told reporters after an all-night meeting of his party's ruling National Committee that it had voted by 96 to one, with 23 abstentions, to back an agreement with the conservative Centre Democrats on a government platform.

Dr. Soares said this deal was "more or less established."

The Socialist leader said he would report to President Antonio Romanul Eanes today on the results of his tortuous negotiations to end the country's six-week political crisis.

The crisis began on Dec. 8 with the defeat in parliament of his 16-month-old minority Socialist government over its austerity programme.

It was not immediately clear whether Gen. Eanes would formally appoint Dr. Soares as prime minister today -- the deadline set for his answer.

Dr. Soares referred to his deal with the Centre Democrats as more or less complete, while Centre Democrat leader Prof. Diogo Freitas do Amaral said some points remain to be cleared up.

A deal with the Centre Democrats, Portugal's third largest party, would give Dr. Soares 143 of the seats in the 263-member Assembly of the Republic.

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early today given him authority to make further attempts to reach agreement with the Communists and the Social Democrats.

He has also sought another inter-party agreement with the Communists who control more than 50 per cent of Portugal's organised labour force.

He blamed both the Communists and the centre-right Social Democrats, runners up to the Socialists in the 1976 elections, for blocking a wider deal.

But the party resolution early today gave him authority to make further attempts to reach agreement with the Communists and the Social Democrats.

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